THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) S60 acres of land has been acquired out of 929 acres required, earthwork and minor bridges are in progress in a length of 42 km in the plains. The final location survey is in progress in the hilly area and work would be taken up as soon as the alignment is identified and land becoming available thereafter.

(c) Yes Sir.

High Level Railway Panel to reduce accidents

524. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the high level Railway Panel to reduce accidents; and

(b) the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Railway Safety Review Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, has submitted Part-I of their Report. Part-II of their Report is yet to be received in Part-I of their Report, the Committee has made 150 recommendations.

(b) Action will be taken on those recommendations which will be accepted by the Government.

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

525. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of unmanned railway crossings in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(b) how many accidents have taken place during the last two years on those crossings; and

(c) what is the number of such crossings proposed to be manned during the next year and how much expenditure is likely to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a)

Andhra Pradesh	— 1548 nos.
Tamil Nadu	— 1566 nos.
Total	—3114 nos.

(b) Accident statistics on Indian Railway are maintained Railway Zone-wise and

not State-wise. The Zone-wise statistics of accident that have occured at unmanned level crossings on Zonal Railways parts of which from parts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are as follows:

Year	Southern Railway	South Central Railway	South Eastern Railway	Total
1997-98	9	6	5	20
1998-99	4	10	8	22
1999-2000	3	6	2	11
	99			

(c) 46 unmanned level crossings in Andhra Pradesh and 19 unmanned level crossings in Tamil Nadu have been proposed for manning in the next financial year, subject to availability of funds.

Prized posting of officers responsible for train accident

526. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Hindu of August 5, 1999, in the context of recent worst train disaster on August 2, 1999, any officers indicted as responsible for the rail accident had been given a prized posting at railway headquarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to avert such disasters in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Brief steps taken to prevent accidents

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(2) Modification of the signaling circuitry is being carried out to minimize chances of human errors in causing accidents.

3. Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) for giving advance warning about signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.